

Valerie Levin

From: Sean King
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2011 11:40 AM
To: Goldberg, Richard (Kirk)
Cc: Kraig Siracuse; lester_munson@kirk.senate.gov
Subject: RE: Taiwan travel

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Dear Rich,

Thanks for your prompt reply even though I know your automatic e-mail message indicated you're out of the office the rest of this week. Please let us know if and how we can ever help facilitate such a trip. Travel costs can be covered via the U.S. State Department's Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act (MEACA). And if Senator Kirk wishes to arrive in Taiwan from mainland China, there's precedent for such a route, as Senator Dianne Feinstein flew from Shanghai to Taipei last spring. Please note that Taiwan's legislative and presidential elections will be held on Saturday, January 14th, 2012 and the presidential inauguration will be on Sunday, May 20th, 2012.

There are those in Taiwan who have suggested that Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou's outreach to mainland China is coming at the expense of U.S.-Taiwan relations. Hence any visit by any U.S. Senator goes a long way to dispelling that notion, and further strengthens President Ma's hand in forging even more confidence-building measures across the Taiwan Strait. The red carpet would obviously be rolled out for Senator Kirk in Taiwan, including a private audience with President Ma and any other Minister whom he wishes to meet.

Lastly, on the off chance that Senator Kirk could ever visit find time to visit Taiwan this year, Calendar Year 2011 is the 100th anniversary of the Republic of China (ROC), the U.S.-inspired government that exists today on Taiwan (ROC founding father Dr. Sun Yat-sen spent his formative adolescent years in Hawaii, returning to China inspired by the ideals of Alexander Hamilton and Abraham Lincoln). There will be special celebrations all this year in honor thereof. <http://taiwanroc100.tw/english/default.aspx>

Again, thanks for the e-mail and we look forward to supporting any possible trip whichever way we can.

Best wishes,
Sean King

p.s. I've copied Chief of Staff Lester Munson on this e-mail, as he was present when we discussed this matter with Senator Kirk.

From: Goldberg, Richard (Kirk) [mailto:Richard_Goldberg@kirk.senate.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2011 9:09 AM
To: Sean King
Cc: Kraig Siracuse
Subject: RE: Taiwan travel

Sean –

This is something we've talked about notionally but haven't discussed with the full scheduling team. Will keep you posted if that comes together.

R/
Rich